

CLASSIFICATION

East Germany

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COUNTRY

REPORT NO.

Military Information from Stendal

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TOPIC

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

14 to 24 April 1953

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

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1. From 17 to 20 April 1953, about 50 percent of the windows of the Tauntzien Kaserne were lighted at dusk. One building was unoccupied. From 100 to 150 troops were daily observed at basic training without arms. From 15 to 17 April, maintenance work and cleaning of guns were observed in the AAA emplacement in the Hindenburg Kaserne. On 20 April, the AAA emplacement was vacant. [redacted] the troops stationed in the Hindenburg Kaserne left the installation between 20 to 24 April. From 20 to 24 April, the windows of the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne were not lighted at dusk. [redacted] the installation had been vacated by the troops. On 19 April, 8 boxcarloads of troops, and an undetermined number of AA guns, searchlights and motor vehicles, [redacted] were entrained in Stendal, with the shipment leaving toward Wittenberg.¹

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2. Troop trains passing through Stendal between 14 and 22 April included:

14 April. A train carrying about 22 heavy AA guns, and including 10 boxcars occupied by troops, coming from the direction of Schoenhausen and proceeding toward Wittenberge or Salzwedel. A train carrying an undetermined number of AA guns of three different calibers, and including 10 boxcars occupied by troops, proceeding toward Wittenberge or Salzwedel.

15 April. A train carrying 2 radio trucks, 15 trucks and about 15 armored scout cars, and including 20 boxcars occupied by troops, coming from the direction of Berlin and proceeding toward Magdeburg, at 6:40 a.m. A train carrying 3 field kitchens, 2 AA guns, and 1 radio truck and including 20 boxcars occupied by troops and 2 flatcars with sideracks each carrying 60 barrels, coming from the direction of Berlin and proceeding toward Gardelegen, at 10 a.m. Three other shipments en route toward Berlin.

20 April. A train carrying 31 trucks with [redacted] 152-mm field howitzers, and including 8 boxcars occupied by troops and 4 closed boxcars, coming from the direction of Berlin and proceeding toward Magdeburg, at 6:30 a.m. [redacted]

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A train carrying 16 trucks with covered numbers, 4 tank trucks, 3 armored scout cars, 1 tank, and 2 small AA guns; and including 14 boxcars occupied by troops, coming from the direction of Berlin, and proceeding toward Wittenberge-Gardelegen, at 7:45 a.m. A train carrying 4 AA guns, and 20 trucks [redacted] and including 10 boxcars occupied by troops; and 12 flatcars with sideracks, each carrying 12 motorcycles, from the direction of Berlin, at 2:50 p.m.

21 April. A train carrying 30 trucks [redacted] and including 10 boxcars occupied by troops, 6 closed boxcars, and 16 flatcars with sideracks with guns, which [redacted] were 152-mm field howitzers, coming from the direction of Berlin, and proceeding toward Magdeburg, at 2:50 p.m.

22 April. A train carrying 25 trucks [redacted] and 20 guns which [redacted] were 152-mm field howitzers; and including 10 boxcars occupied by troops, coming from the direction of Berlin, and proceeding toward Magdeburg, at 8:10 a.m. ²

1. [redacted] Comment. The bulk of the units of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div stationed in Stendal probably left for Letzling Heath between 20 and 24 April [redacted] the wood camp southeast of Jaevenitz, which was used by the division, was occupied by 5,000 troops.

AAA units of the Third Shock Army were loaded on 19 April. As the 953d AAA Bn (US) of the abovementioned division is carried in Tangermunde and the AAA unit stationed in the former parachutists' camp south of the Fliegerhorst Borstel according to available information, is believed to belong to the air force, the shipment cannot be accounted for.

2. [redacted] Comment. Troop trains [redacted] between 15 and 22 April included AAA shipments to Mustraw; shipments of units of the 10th Gds Tank Div to Letzling Heath; and of elements of the 6th Arty Div to Altengrabow. The three trains observed en route toward Berlin on 15 April, presumably consisted of empty cars.

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